



Champions for Children's Health

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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2013

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman,

On behalf of over 220 of the nation's children's hospitals, I am writing in support of H.R. 2019, the Kids First Research Act of 2013.

As you know, children are not just "small adults." Children require highly-specialized care and equally specialized research. Despite children accounting for nearly 20 percent of our nation's population, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has historically invested a far smaller percentage of research dollars – between five and 10 percent – in pediatric biomedical research. Healthy living begins with a healthy infancy and childhood, and inadequate support for pediatric research does a disservice to our nation's children.

The Kids First Research Act of 2013 would enhance our nation's commitment to pediatric research and help make clear that the health and well-being of our children is a national priority. The legislation would provide a much-needed boost to the pediatric research community, supporting expanded research efforts to identify causes of and treatments for many of the most devastating diseases and disorders that affect children.

In addition to the Kids First Research Act, the Association continues to strongly support the National Pediatric Research Network Act, H.R. 225, and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 424. This legislation would authorize the NIH to establish a National Pediatric Research Network. The Association views these two proposals as collaborative and applauds the committee and the House for quickly passing H.R. 225 earlier this year.

On behalf of the Children's Hospital Association, thank you for your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Kaufman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Kaufman
Vice President, Public Policy
Children's Hospital Association

CC:

Chairman Joseph Pitts
Ranking Member Frank Pallone